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BAY AREA REPORTER

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NEXT DEADLINE: APRIL 22, 1977

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San Jose Gays Mobilize, Win Case

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San Jose Gays Mobilize, Win Case

by Art James

The San Jose Vice Squad's campaign of intimidation/harassment directed at the Gay community has resulted in an unprecedented unity among peninsula Gay groups and a common determination to end this reckless assault on civil liberties.

At a recent general meeting of San Jose's Lambda Ass'n, with representatives of several other organizations in attendance, it was unanimously agreed to form a coalition to deal with this issue on a basis of total Gay community involvement.

A Legal Defense Committee was established. A Community Defense Fund was set up to be financed by private contributions and the participating Gay organizations.

Several prominent attorneys currently handling entrapment cases have offered to form a legal

panel to represent the Gay community of San Jose in filing a class action suit against the city, charging harassment of the Gay minority, with specific violations of civil and human rights.

Strategy meetings are now underway between the Board of Directors of Lambda Ass'n and legal counsel to develop strategy that will include civil suits, public exposure of police entrapment/harassment tactics, and political redress within the straight community to DEMAND an investigation.

In addition, court records are being researched by Lambda volunteers; Vice Squad arrest statistics are being monitored, and the details of recent 647(a) arrest tactics are being documented, with the help of the arrestees and their attorneys.

Another development of the police harassment was evidenced by the "difficulties" Lambda Ass'n is encountering with its per-

mit application for the scheduled June 25 "Gay Freedom Day Rally and Parade" to be held in downtown San Jose. Preparations have been made for the possibility of legal action in this matter should it become necessary.

San Jose Gays have learned from a reliable inside source that plans are afoot between the Vice Unit and the D.A.'s office to expand harassment to other areas of the Gay community.

VICE CHIEF DENIES ENTRAPMENT

Meanwhile, Sgt. Louis Hernandez of the Vice Unit has denied that entrapment techniques are used in making solicitation arrests. "... We do not use entrapment tactics..." the sergeant told KPFA reporter Bill Hartman in a recent interview. "The police department does assign undercover lawmen to make them-

selves available for approaches by others," but he insisted that officers "... do not ..." approach people on their own initiative. He conceded that police "... occasionally ..." tape record conversations.

In spite of Sgt. Hernandez' choice of "occasional," most of the entrapment victims had their private conversations taped unknowingly by undercover "lawmen" with an intent to make an arrest after soliciting a sexual conversation from the victim.

Another Vice Squad procedure which virtually ALL the victims experienced was that polaroid

photos were taken by the arresting vice officers. Yet in a brief interview with Officer Mitchell of the San Jose Police Information Center, this reporter was advised that only "two" photos are taken of the arrestee in the standard booking procedure, which also includes fingerprinting. "These two photos consist of a front and a side profile, for filing purposes ..." It has been suggested by legal counsel that the extra polaroid photos being taken by the vice officers could be used later to single out specific victims for intimidation.

Editorial

San Jose Vice Squad Tactics — Who Cares?

The SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE wondered aloud in an editorial last week wherefore and how come the SFPD had a special detention room in the basement of the Hilton Hotel. The editorial followed a story of a woman being beaten trying to get out of a car (a police car it turned out). A man who came to her aid (thinking she was being mugged) ending in his own arrest and a broken jaw.

We wonder if the establishment press in San Jose would be similarly disturbed to learn that the Vice Squad, coming under increased fire for its entrapment techniques, keeps a motel room in South San Jose where it has taken its victims in vice arrests. Where some sort of pre-interrogation, pre-booking "procedures" take place. The Travelodge Motel on South 2nd Street.

We also wonder if the San Jose media would be as concerned that those arrested by undercover vice cops are first photographed with a polaroid camera (usually four photos) before or while being booked. The usual mug shots are taken later at the police station. We wonder if the Vice Squad has been directed to keep separate files on their victims.

It seems to us that one of the media's responsibilities (particularly the press) is to play watchdog on abridgments of citizens' civil rights. We commend the SF CHRONICLE in its vigilance over highly unusual procedures. Isn't it about time the SAN JOSE MERCURY began to look into its own Police Department. And we're also talking about doctored tapes, "most peculiar" alterations in arrest records.

For no lesser offenses a President of the United States was driven from office. Are obstruction of justice and questionable police tactics any less serious at the local level than at the national level? We ask you, SAN JOSE MERCURY, where is your Woodward & Bernstein?

Or is there kind of a San Jose executive privilege and a "local" security that overrides our constitutional rights? We also doubt the answers will come from the San Jose Police officials.

P. Lorch

ANNUAL

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Entrapment Victim Found Innocent In S.J. Court

by Art James

On the morning of April 7, one of the hundred-plus 647(a) victims in the current rampage of entrapment/harassment going on in this city, went to trial.

In what may become a landmark decision, the Hon. Robert Beresford of the San Jose Municipal Court found the defendant innocent of the charges filed by the 'undercover' arresting officer - a ruling which displeased the

homophobes responsible for the on-going Vice Squad harassment of the Gay community.

According to the defendant, the outcome of the case was decided on two major details. Through cross examination of the arresting officer, it was determined that the officer had lingered in the vicinity of the defendant's parked auto, approached the car without invitation, initiated the conversation, then voluntarily entered the defendant's vehicle. A series of events which the court viewed as "solicitation" by the officer - NOT the defendant.

More importantly, the court held that when the zealous officer got into the victim's car under the above circumstances, he

did so as a "consenting adult" in a PRIVATE place. This interpretation of the automobile as a "private place" is critical in relation to the wording of the 647(a) penal code which states that, "... one who solicits anyone to engage in or who engages in lewd or dissolute conduct in any public place, or a place open to public view ..." is guilty of disorderly conduct, a misdemeanor.

This pattern, where the arresting officer singles out his intended victim then makes the approach in an alluring manner, is TYPICAL of the many San Jose entrapment cases.

The verdict in this case is encouraging, but it does not assure that future cases brought before a different judge will have

Supreme Court To Be Picketed



Hon. Robert Beresford

The Gay Action Coalition, an umbrella group for East Coast Gay activists, plans a mass picketing of the U.S. Supreme Court on May 21. The date is the first anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision upholding Virginia's sodomy laws. According to organizers, that federal precedent will adversely affect the lives of Gay people for years to come.

The picketing will be followed by "celebrations of Lesbian and Gay male love." The day in Washington, D.C., will include a sharing of food, music, crafts, and street theater.

the same result. The case did not set a precedent, but those with trials pending under 647(a) can refer to the legal interpretations of this case as part of their defense.

The Gay community of San Jose is particularly gratified that the victim chose to defend his rights rather than plead guilty as he had originally intended.

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Fred Reiss

Fred Reiss, Prince Consort to Shirley III (Tommy Brown) died Easter Sunday. Fred had been suffering from cancer.

Freddy had been one of the bright spots in our community, always willing to give a hand when asked. He had worked at Kaiser Hospital for many years as a nurse, and at many picnics was available for first aid.

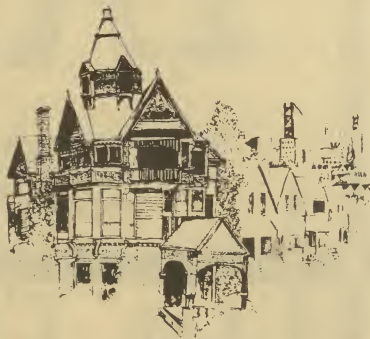
He had also been active along with Shirley in many theatrical productions and was a founder of C.A.M.P. Productions.

He will be sorely missed by his many friends and especially by his lover and companion of 22 years, Tommy Brown.

At the request of the deceased there will be no services. Contributions to Kaiser Foundation, in the name of Fred Reiss, for cancer research will be appreciated.

The Tavern Guild, at its meeting on Tuesday, April 12, voted \$500 on behalf of the Gay community to the fund for cancer research in Fred's name. Other major contributors the same day included the Council of Emperors, \$200, and the Privy Council, a sum over \$200.

There will be a special open bar on Tuesday, April 19, from 5 to 8 PM at the Kokpit. This will be in lieu of services, and all who wish to pay their last respects to the deceased are invited to drop by and have a drink in Fred's memory.



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Executive & Editorial Offices

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Telephones (415)

861-5019 / 861-7230

PUBLISHER: Bob Ross

MANAGING EDITOR

Paul F. Lorch

Entertainment Editor

Don McLean

Staff Photographer

Nancy Achilles

Peninsula & E. Bay Rep.

Gene Earl

Graphics & Design

Ruling Arm—Rex Ramseyer

Typesetting

Tony Perry

Contributors

Dixon

Gene Earl

Wayne Friday

Paul Hardman

Paul-Francis Hartmann

Mark Joplin

H. Klein

Marcus Manulis

George Mendenhall

Harvey Milk

Hector Navarro

George Robert

Dick Walters

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The views of this newspaper are reflected only in the editorials that appear herein. Opinions and views expressed in columns, letters, and cartoons are those of the writers and artists and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Bay Area Reporter.

No, No, Anita!

Not long ago we expressed pleasure that Miami singer Anita Bryant retained her TV job despite an anti-Anita campaign brought on by her opposition to a Dade County ordinance that prohibits discrimination against homosexuals. Now, due largely to Miss Bryant's efforts, the county has scheduled a special June election to reconsider the measure, and we hope the voters will uphold it. Some correspondents interpreted our support for Miss Bryant's right to speak as support for what she has been saying. Far from it. Miss Bryant's arguments - such as her charge that homosexuals are out to recruit converts among children - are absurd as well as benighted, and county officials are to be commended for extending the area of civil rights to an often abused group. It is good that Miss Bryant is keeping her job; it would be better if she lost her campaign.

- from an editorial in "The New York Times", March 26, 1977

Anita Bryant - Campaign

Increased picketing and soliciting of funds have occurred in San Francisco to protest Anita Bryant's "Save Our Children, Inc." anti-homosexuality crusade. Last weekend the GLA picketed the Northpoint Co-op Food Store to protest sales of Florida citrus products. Another picket line will be thrown up at the Safeway Store at Church & Market on April 15 at 7 pm.

Another group of activists have set up tables in the Castro and Polk areas on weekends to raise funds to aid the Dade County Coalition. Non-Florida oranges are sold for \$1, and donations are accepted.

S.I.R., at its last meeting, voted to support the boycott. As well, the Board of Directors of the Berkeley Co-op will take up the boycott issue at its next meeting.

Letters tending moral support to the Dade County Commission which originally passed the civil rights ordinance have been sent by Mayor George Moscone and, reportedly, Supervisors Quentin Kopp and Dianne Feinstein.

Letters of support are still urged for the Dade County Commission - also letters of protest to the Florida Citrus Commission and funds to Dade County Coalition for the Humanistic Rights of Gays, P.O. Box 414, Miami, FLA 33133, c/o Bob Stickney. The Miami Gays seek to raise \$400,000.



ANITA BRYANT

NGTF Gets Busy On Dade County

NEW YORK - The National Gay Task Force has launched a major campaign to assist the Gay community in Dade County, Florida, by enlisting support from a wide variety of national organizations in the form of letters or telegrams to the members of the Metropolitan Dade County Commission and releases to the press.

As a result of this effort to date, the National Council of Churches, the American Psychiatric Ass'n and the National

Organization for Women have written to the Commissioners and have issued press releases aimed primarily at the Miami papers and the national wire services. Albert Shanker, president of the American Federation of Teachers, is presently drafting a letter and release and is expected to issue them this week.

Dr. Robert Gibson, president of the American Psychiatric Ass'n, wired the Dade County Commissioners, making specific reference to teachers and quoting the APA's strong stand in favor of Gay-rights legislation as a step forward in the struggle for mental health. And NOW president Karen DeCrow reiterated that organization's steadfast concern for the rights of

all people to be free from that sort of ordinance. The letters also addressed the question of repealing the ordinance to save the cost of a referendum and criticized those who would put money above human rights.

NGTF Co-Executive Directors Jean O'Leary and Bruce Voeller have pledged themselves to continue and expand their policy of close consultation and cooperation with the Gay-rights leaders in Miami. Both visited Miami twice in the past several months, and Dr. Voeller returned for further consultations in April.

In addition, NGTF has been working hard to influence reportage of the events in the national media, stimulating arti-

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PHOTO: JOHN COLETTI

cles on the subject in such publications as the "New York Times" and "Time Magazine," and writing letters to the wire services and the national news editors of all major papers in the country, urging them to provide the necessary background to the coverage of events in Dade County.

"The fight for Gay rights in Dade County," Jean O'Leary said today, "is vitally important to all Lesbians and Gay men in America. This is not only because it is a testing ground of public support

for all local and national Gay-rights legislation, but because the backlash represented by Anita Bryant is focusing the issues of prejudice and discrimination for the public at large, and has become a dramatic means of gaining active support for our cause from all who care about human rights."

Prominent Cleric Replies To Anita

The Rev. G. William Sheek, director of the National Council's family ministries and human sexuality, has notified the Dade County Commission that he was deeply disturbed "about certain myths and stereotypes that are being perpetuated in the dialogues over the ordinance concerning civil rights for homosexuals."

Sheek, a top official of the prestigious National Council of Churches, said that Anita Bryant misrepresents certain Christian positions and stereotypes

homosexuals.

Homophobe Bryant has been quoted as saying, "God puts homosexuals in the same category as murderers." And that the Miami civil rights battle is one of "the agnostics, the atheists, and the ungodly on one side and God's people on the other."

The eminent churchman pointed out that Bryant and her followers were wrong. That the Bible has no single nor clear position on homosexuality. Or that the official Biblical position is that homosexuality is a "sin against nature" not to be tolerated in society.

One local churchman recently commented that if Ms. Bryant misrepresented Florida oranges as woefully as she misrepresents the Bible, most of America would be sucking lemons.

Universal Fellowship Of MCC

... RESOLUTIONS ON BRYANT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Elders of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches condemns Ms. Bryant's activities and the activities of those supporting her in her homophobic campaign;

That members offer spiritual, moral and financial support to those organizations working to uphold the Dade County, Florida, ordinance prohibiting discrimination against Gay people;

That all citizens, Gay and non-Gay, who support civil rights join in the effort to defeat Ms. Bryant's efforts in Dade County, and the Elders warn that these efforts, in successful, will be the first step in a national campaign against the civil rights of Gay people.

To support the efforts of many groups in boycotting the products of the Florida Citrus Board until either:

1. Ms. Bryant ceases

her anti-Gay activities, or
2. The Florida Citrus Board issues a statement in support of civil rights for all people, including Gay people;

To authorize its Washington, D.C., field office to collect and disseminate educational materials to the media, churches and public groups exposing the faulty and outdated theological, Biblical, sociological and psychological concepts upon which Ms. Bryant's efforts are based and that attempts be made to educate Ms. Bryant and her supporters through debate and confrontation. Further, the Elders encourage local pastors to assist in such educational efforts as part of their duty to preach the Gospel of love;

To condemn uninformed efforts that encourage prejudice, hatred and bigotry toward any person or group as contrary to the Gospel of love preached by Jesus Christ which enjoins all Christians to love justice and mercy and to appreciate the intrinsic worth of all people of good will;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, to condemn any effort to deny civil and human rights as contrary to the principles of liberty and justice upon which this country is founded and contrary to the new and hopeful emphasis upon preserving human rights enunciated by President Carter as a foundation stone of U.S. foreign and domestic policy.

The Board of Elders,

People's Fund Meeting

The Peoples Fund and the Council of Emperors have called for an open meeting. The meeting is being called to answer general questions as to how funds are to be distributed as well as to get input from the community as a whole. All are invited to attend.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 4, at 8:00 PM at the Gay Center, 330 Grove St. Please plan to attend.

Letter From The Mayor

March 30, 1977

Dade County Commission
Dade County Court House
Miami, Florida 33130

Attention: Commissioner Ruth Shack

We understand you will be considering a referendum on the repeal of your recently passed Gay civil rights ordinance on April 5th.

As you may know, San Francisco was among the first municipalities to guarantee the civil rights of the Gay minority in similar legislation in February of 1972.

To date, more than 35 communities have seen fit to guarantee that Gay citizens are given the same rights as other taxpayers.

Our experience has been that our ordinance has enhanced the quality of life and reduced unnecessary frictions within our city by extending to the Gay minority the dignity and respect due to all our citizens.

We can only salute your courage in establishing this important legislation and extend our moral support and hope that you will choose to support its continuation.

Sincerely,

George R. Moscone
Mayor

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Milk Forum

Where Does The Political Left Stand On Anita Bryant?

by Harvey Milk

Anita Bryant won't just go away. Being flippant about her won't stop her. Last issue I wrote about the untold harm that she was doing. At that time I did not know about the death of Ovidio Ramos. There may be others. Bryant should not just lose her job pushing Florida orange juice, she should be indicted for inciting violence. Violence against Gay people.

There are those - like the National Gay Task Force - who feel that we should not press for her being fired. They argue about her "rights." Well, what about the rights of all those people who are fire-bombed because they are Gay? What about the rights of all who are, and will be, discriminated against because they are Gay? What about the rights of all who become victims of Anita Bryant's preaching? What about the rights of Ovidio Ramos? Where is our great NGTF when it comes to Gay people who are beaten and lose their jobs?

Anita Bryant is not just bigoted; she is criminal. She has used her position and privilege to preach hatred, and she is just warming up. There are laws against yelling "Fire!" in a crowded theater. There are laws against people who incite riot and violence.

Every Gay bar should stop using all canned and frozen orange juice. Every Gay person should do the same. Not to do so is to give Bryant more power and let her step on Gay rights and Gay people that much harder. The inconvenience of not drinking frozen or canned orange juice is minor compared to the inconvenience that too many Gay people are already feeling.

ONE HUNDRED MILLION CANS

We may make jokes about her, toss her off as a crazy; but that is just what many Germans did about Hitler. Then it was too late. Bryant won't be any Hitler, but while those amongst us are apologizing for her or still drinking OJ from Florida, there will be more Ovidio Ramoses.

Some say that ONE can of OJ won't make any difference. Before Bryant becomes more powerful, remember that your ONE can adds up to millions of ONE cans throughout the nation. The only way to stop this bigot is to have a fully effective economic boycott.

ACID TEST

And this issue is an acid test for the political left.

The left has always been at the forefront of every civil rights movement. They have never walked away from any group or individual when rights were at stake. From the Blacks to the farm workers; from the Rosenbergs to Ellsberg. Yet the silence from the left is all we hear. The political left must be questioned, and they must answer. In the meantime, every Gay person has to do their part by dumping all Florida juice. By squeezing fresh California or Texas oranges, one puts the squeeze on Anita Bryant. The day after she and her ilk win is too late to stop her. Today is the test for all of us.

SF Telephone-Recording Poll

OVERWHEMLINGLY SUPPORTS GAYS

Responding to a classified advertisement urging readers to "Talk to Bionic Voice," an estimated 900 persons were interviewed by a sophisticated telephone-recording system. The automated interviews lasted one short week. Killed by adverse publicity.

The recording greeted the callers and then asked questions ranging from city government to drug addiction. Two questions related to Gay people: "Did you know that more than 25% of the white, single male population of San Francisco is homosexual?" and "How do you feel about homosexual teachers in the high schools?"

Said Jeremy Ets-Hokin, the man behind the venture, "All I wanted to know was the feeling toward homosexuals in the city. My own feeling is that they are human beings and entitled to do whatever they want. There's no reason they shouldn't teach in the schools."

He said callers to the Bionic Voice agreed, as 91% said they have no objection to Gay teachers at any level.

Transsexual Bill Update

SACRAMENTO - The State Assembly voted 41 to 30 to allow transsexuals to be issued new birth certificates reflecting their gender change.

The bill, sponsored by San Franciscan Willie Brown and supported by both Assemblyman Art Agnos (D., S.F.) and the Brown administration, now faces stiffer opposition

in the State Senate (traditionally more reticent in liberalizing sex laws).

According to observers, the debate was low key in contrast to the heated passions spurred by sex laws in previous sessions. The bill would allow a transsexual, for a \$5 fee and a letter from a doctor attesting to a sex change, to be issued a new birth certificate indistinguishable from the original. A name change could also be secured on the new document if the court approved.

Said Agnos, "This is nothing new and mysterious. It just allows people the dignity that other government agencies already give them." - i.e. military discharges, driver's licenses.

Letter From The D.A.

Mr. Richard Gayer
Attorney at Law

Dear Mr. Gayer:

Thank you for your recent complimentary letters regarding Assistant District Attorneys Jewel Basse and Luis Stelzner. They are two of our young stars and, of course, we are very proud of them. I hope that Ms. Basse's performance in the Fonti and Trader case demonstrated with clarity that my policy and the policy of this office is to treat with great seriousness and vigor cases involving as-

saults upon members of the Gay community. That has always been my policy and shall continue to be. I appreciate your interest and support.

Sincerely,

Joseph Freitas, Jr.

East Bay MCC Starts Raps

Starting April 22, MCC East Bay will be holding Men's Raps every second and fourth Friday of the month at 2624 West Street from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. Call (415) 836-0313 for further details.



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Behind the Headlines

Gay Politic Politics Within CDC

by George Mendenhall

"I keep saying that I am a Democrat, but I ain't. I just pretend to be 'cause Democrats are funny and I'm supposed to be."

- Will Rogers

* * *

The truth is that Democrats are still sort of, funny people. I am one of them and I am constantly amazed how my fellow Democrats ignore the reality that Americans do not vote by party but by issues and candidates. Most people still register as Democrats but they vote Independent. The Democrats who elected a movie star who wanted to build a mansion for himself and was politically Right (Ronald Reagan) turned about and elected a liberal seminarian who desired to sleep on the floor and signed a Gay rights bill into law (Jerry Brown). Democrats ARE

not only funny, but strange.

Few Republicans move away from their desire to place property rights above human rights. Thus I have found it more comfortable to function within the Democratic Party. It has not always been a pleasant experience, but the socialists offer me an alternative that I have always found too vague to comprehend.

This brings us to a discussion of Gay politics in California, particularly the way we function within the California Democratic Council (CDC). The CDC began in 1953 as a coalition of Democratic clubs under Alan Cranston and grew in stature until 1963 when it had 650 clubs and 75,000 members. Today, CDC has dropped to 175 clubs and a membership of 45,000. In 1963 the powerful CDC, which was able to produce thousands of door-to-door workers on election day,

came under attack by Assembly Speaker Jesse Unruh, who was then building his own private power base. At about the same time, many who had received CDC help in elections began to form their own power structure - outside of the Democratic Party and outside of the CDC. The weakened CDC has been trying to hold itself together ever since.

How influential is the CDC today? Few legislators pay any close attention to the scores of resolutions passed at the annual CDC conventions. (Save the Whales, Save the Nudists, etc.) In fact, a number of those attending the conventions (1,500 at the recent San Jose affair) moved about in hotel "hospitality" suites and in corridors during floor debates. Some claim that legislators appreciate the information sent to them from the CDC, and others believe that the delegates to the national conventions use CDC resolutions as guidelines in their deliberations. Special interest groups, such as the Gay Caucus, use the CDC for their own purposes in organizing around issues that interest them.

A few years ago the most important Gay politico in California, Jim

Foster, used his considerable expertise and contacts to introduce Gay politics to the Democratic Party and the CDC. (Foster is still considered "Mr. Gay Politics" by many elected Democratic legislators.) From this foothold grew a Gay Caucus within the CDC which has now become one of the most active and influential groups within that organization. Today the Caucus has 12 clubs with over 600 members across the state. (Locally, "Alice B. Toklas" is the largest Gay club: Box 11316, SF 94101). Gay people now hold several offices within the CDC itself.

The expansion of the Gay CDC clubs and the Caucus has been phenomenal - all in all, today a potential tool for further Gay rights legislation. While the CDC itself may be questionable as a power, it functions well as an "umbrella" organization - allowing for our own development.

Rev. Jim Sandmire (MCC) now heads the statewide Gay Caucus. His warmth as a person, administrative ability and intense concern have been a shot-in-the-arm to California's Gay politics. He joins with such people as Frank Fitch (Toklas), Morris Knight (Stonewall, L.A.), Chris Perry (Gay Democrats, S.F.) and Atty. Robert Lynn (San Diego Democrats) in moving the Gay Caucus forward. Sandmire is traveling about the state organizing more clubs and acting as a political liaison. Most important, he has convinced the Gay Caucus that it must raise funds to support a California political war chest so that we can be effective.

Whatever the future of the CDC holds, with Sandmire's leading the Gay Caucus enthusiasm is developing within the Gay community for furthering our legislative program. Jim Foster has encouraged Sandmire and commended his stimulation of a new Gay consciousness in California. This columnist concurs.

AB607 Would "Straighten" Out Marriage Code

Present law states that any unmarried person may obtain a marriage certificate. Bruce Nestande was asked to amend this law so that only a male and female could get a mar-

riage certificate. This bill was introduced on behalf of the county clerk of Orange County and the County Clerks Ass'n who feared that two people of the same sex would attempt to apply. There is no known record of any California case where a non-heterosexual couple has sought a license under this law.

Nevertheless, couples who have a state sanctioned marriage receive benefits that other couples do not have such as inheritance rights, tax breaks, certain types of unemployment benefits, a psychological recognition for the individuals as well as a recognition for special benefits in the private sector.

This bill was heard in the Assembly Judiciary Committee on April 14. Gays are urged to write members of that committee as well as one's own legislators opposing AB 607.

Committee members are: John Miller (D., Emeryville), Chair; Ronald Cordova (D., El Toro); Fred Chel (D., Long Beach); Jack Fenton (D., Montebello); Charles Imbrecht (R., Ventura); Walter Ingalls (D., Riverside); Ken Maddy (R., Fresno); Alister McAlister (D., San Jose); Bill McVittie (D., Ontario); David Stirling (R., Whittier); Art Torres (D., Los Angeles). The address is: State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. This bill can be defeated in committee if our friends in the legislature know of our opposition.

Andromeda Hosts Benefit

FOR ST. ANTHONY'S

Cora and Santos Beloy, Filipino-American singing musicians, sent St. Anthony into orbit at The Andromeda recently. The occasion was a benefit raffle for the St. Anthony's Dining Room.

Some of the prizes donated included: Season Tickets to the Spring Opera, Dinner for Two at L'Orangerie, and a Fishing Trip for Two.

John Schmidt and Stark Humphreys assembled such diversified and eminent people as Mrs. Rora Tolentino, the Filipino Consul, and her husband; Senator and Mrs. Milton Marks; Ms. Bette Wilton of "Good Housekeeping"; Mrs. Sue Ellen Binder of Pets Unlimited; Mr. Wally Read of the Red Cross; Ray Taliaferro of KRON-TV; and, of course, Rose and Schatzi who make the Gay community proud wherever they go.

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in the Sun and Wind and Snow.*

*Love,
Tommy*

The Gay Parsons

LONDON - Some men embraced and kissed one another in greeting at the first annual general meeting of the Gay Christian Movement in London yesterday.

The movement, founded last year for homosexual

men and women to achieve full recognition as normal church members, has a high Anglican preponderance, but it is at pains to stress its interdenominational character. Members of the Anglican, Roman Catholic and free church clergy were among the 200 present yesterday.

The major decision taken at the meeting was to try to raise funds to

employ a full-time organizer (writes Colin Cross). There are now 32 local groups dotted around the country, and the membership of 1,000 falls into three categories: Those who are 'straight' in their sexual tastes but sympathize with 'Gay liberation'; those who are homosexuals but for job or family reasons conceal their orientation. . .

- The London Observer
March 27, 1977

600 At Arizona State Capitol

PHOENIX - Six hundred Arizona residents, most of them Gay, flocked to the state capitol on March 23 to protest a revised criminal code which would make possible jail sentencing and fines for the state's 229,500 Gays. It was one of the largest and most peaceable protests in Arizona history.

Gays publicly came out, a sight not often seen in Arizona, for a special hearing with the Senate Judiciary Committee on Senate Bill 1020 of the revised criminal code. Nearly 300 persons jammed the hearing room while they and the committee heard testimony from 22 persons for more than an hour. More than 300 rallied outside in the presence of unneeded state riot police.

The speakers, Gay and straight, unanimously protested the homosexual conduct code, claiming the bill to be discriminatory, an invasion of privacy and a waste of money. "Making love should not be a crime," insisted B.J. Budd, co-chair of the Arizona Gay Community Council.

Section 13-1403 would make "homosexual conduct" a Class 1 misdemeanor with a prison term of one year and a \$10,000 fine. The proposal legalizes all sex acts between consenting adults of the opposite sex, but makes all homosexual acts illegal.

The purpose of the special hearing was only to take public testimony. No final action was taken by the committee in the hearings. Community leaders hope the committee will delete the anti-homosexual section entirely, or postpone it until next year's session.

Almost half of the 39 persons who asked to speak relinquished their time so as not to be repetitious, as asked by the committee chairman, Senator Osborn.

"The people who will be affected by these laws constitute a sizable portion of the general community," Richard Rubadue, Executive Director of Citizens for Constitutional Rights (CCR), told the committee. "It is our conviction that no legislature would knowingly criminalize such a large portion of its constituents. . . . Affectional relationships we conduct with other consenting adults in the privacy of our homes are not, and should never be, the concern of the state."

- Arizona Gay News

"Gay"

- Our Word, Their Word?

Why Call Them Gay?

BY JACK WARNER

PART III

TIME magazine (Sept. 8, 1975, p. 32) has claimed that the word "Gay" didn't come into common use among homosexuals until the 1950's. I can report from my own experience, however, that Gay people in all parts of the United States were using the term to mean precisely homosexual at least a decade earlier.

But there is, of course, solid evidence that is far more reliable than my own memory. One good example can be found in the Cole Porter show "Let's Face It," which opened in New York in the fall of 1941. In a song from that show called "Farming," this lyric appears:

Don't inquire of Georgie Raft
Why his cow has never calfed,
Georgie's bull is beautiful, but he's gay!

(From COLE, edited by Robert Kimball (Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 1971); "Farming" copyright 1941, Chappel and Company, Inc.)

It is possible, too, that Gay people were using the term specifically to mean homosexual for some time before it became known to even the most sophisticated theatergoers.

We must notice, though, that there is one way in which the word "gay" is currently used that appears to be fairly new. In all of the examples presented so far in this article, "Gay" is used as an adjective that describes a person or a kind of activity. During the last half-dozen years or so, "Gay" has come to be used as a noun, as well: a homosexual person is said to be "a Gay." Newspaper headlines, for instance, will announce that A GAY CHALLENGES THE AIR FORCE or GAYS WIN RULING ON EMPLOYMENT. It looks, in fact, as if it may well be the newspapers - again representative of the straight society - that have inaugurated this usage. Gay people themselves usually continue to use the word mainly as an adjective, adding a noun to indicate a person. We speak of "a Gay man" or "a Gay woman" or "Gay people." But the newspapers will surely win. "Gay" as a noun is already in the language, just as "homosexual" as a noun is.

Strictly speaking, there isn't really any such thing as "a Gay" or a homosexual because there is nothing about a homosexual person that distinguishes him or her from anybody else - except participation in homosexual activities. It is the activities, not the people, that are homosexual. Besides, some people who are called homosexual also participate in other kinds of sexual activities. A homosexual may also be a heterosexual in different circumstances. We use the words "homosexual" and "Gay" as nouns - and sometimes as adjectives - purely as a matter of convenience in speaking and writing. They reflect our need to put labels on people.

But when we are not careful, labels can lead to misunderstanding. All too often, a label is mistaken for a preconceived notion that bears little resemblance to actual people. Let us recall the two statements which were presented at the beginning of this article. A well-known San Francisco columnist has asked on several occasions, "Why do they call them Gay when so many of them aren't?" And a commentator on National Public Radio has complained about what he thinks is a perversion of the meaning of "gay": "No self-respecting person feels safe using the word any longer." Perplexity over the use of the word "gay" is really a disguise for something else in these statements, isn't it?

What the columnist is really saying is that he believes that Gay people are unhappy people - a belief for which there is no evidence in fact. What is happiness? How do you measure it? Moreover, it is possible that Gay people may sometimes be unhappy simply because too many straight people insist upon making disparaging remarks about them.

What the radio commentator is really saying is that he is afraid that somebody might pin a Gay label on him. It is not the use of the word that bothers him - it is what the word represents. Apparently this commentator has also forgotten (or has never known) that Gay people are people, too, and that they have - and are entitled to - as much self-respect as anyone else.

Whether we like it or not, the word "Gay" now means homosexual in our language. The next time you hear it or see it in print, try to remember that it is not a "nice" word usurped and turned inside out by Gay people. It is a perfectly good and useful term bestowed upon all of us by our English-speaking - and presumably straight - ancestors.

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Politics & People

by Wayne Friday

Carol Ruth Silver wants it made clear she is running for Supervisor in District 6 and NOT for City Attorney... a recent poll indicates that three of every four Californians favor the return of capital punishment... Sheriff Hongisto will be guest speaker at Alice B. Toklas' April 25 benefit for the Dade County Coalition at Trinity Place (6-9 PM)... Barry King, the young candidate for Supe in District 4 has already set up a headquarters on Larkin St. and is hard at work organizing his campaign... it's funny the difference it makes on who's foot the shoe is on - if Billy Carter's "nigger in the woodpile" joke had been made by a Republican, he would have been stoned to death (or at very least, crucified a la Earl Butz); but when "good ole Billy" pulls one, nary a word from our well-meaning liberals... SF's two State Senators split on the Death Penalty vote - Foran voted for it; Marks against... the Tavern Guild voted to ask their member bars to discontinue carrying ANY orange juice until further notice - many stopped selling OJ immediately... Mass. Rep. Elaine Noble in town... I'll bet Willie Brown wishes that color TV in the news was sitting in the home of one of the other law partners; and, damn, Willie, just what does a six-foot TV screen look like anyway... Ella Hill Hutch to run fur Supe? ... I'm sure it is only coincidental that Jack Molinari's was the only Supervisor's name on the Stokes Anniversary Dinner Committee (there were none of Stokes' fellow commissioners on the list) considering the vote Stokes cast for a MacDonald's restaurant on land partially owned by Molinari's father... when Herb Caen reported Tuesday that the Alioto people wanted Bernard Orsi to run for Mayor in the event the Barbagelata scheme passes, they were beat to the punch - Harvey Milk said that same thing a month ago in his B.A.R. column... both Chief Gain and D.A. Freitas spoke to the Golden Gate Business Ass'n Tuesday night... someone from L.A. Chief Davis' office let me know in no uncertain terms they didn't appreciate my column on the Big Chief - at least they're listening... a comment (a bit late, no doubt) on the immediate past President of Toklas, Bob Cramer - Bob and I often disagreed on candidates and issues, but I always felt safe talking politics with the guy. I think he is one of the fairest, most decent men active in politics in this city today... don't look now, Senator Foran, but I

keep hearing that Quentin Kopp would like to be a State Senator... Dorothy von B. would dearly like to be a Judge - she doesn't want to run again for the Board of Supes... the anti-Moscone pack continues to grow - even many liberals who supported him in the past now quietly let it be known they've had it with George... San Diego Mayor Pete Wilson pleased at his recent SF reception among political fat-cats... at least one well-known Demo ready to challenge Phil Burton next time around... the two most popular politicians in

town continue to be Milton Marks and Willie Brown (despite Brown's color TV "explanation")... President Carter's new election law proposal a sham... Lionel Wilson will be the first Black Mayor of Oakland... the Tennessee Legislature overrode the governor's veto and enacted a state death penalty... L.A. City Attorney Burt Pines, strongly supported by Gays, won re-election Tuesday by a landslide... Assemblyman Tom Suitt (D., Indian Wells) went to jail in Sacramento for his second drunk driving conviction...

Cities, States Advance Gay Rights

The first Gay rights protection adopted in the United States was an executive order issued in Atlanta in 1971. Since that time, 38 other American municipalities and Toronto have adopted similar protections or passed Gay civil rights laws.

Cities, counties and states prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation are listed below. An asterisk appears next to Atlanta, New York and several other cities where the protections apply only to municipal jobs, i.e., city government.

CITIES

*Atlanta, GA; *New York, NY; East Lansing, MI; *San Francisco, CA; Ann Arbor, MI; Washington, DC; Seattle, WA; Toronto, Ontario; Berkeley, CA; Detroit, MI; Columbus, OH (Housing and public accommodations only); Minneapolis, MN; Alfred, NY; St. Paul, MN; Palo Alto, CA; *Ithaca, NY; *Sunnyvale, CA; San Jose, CA; Portland, OR; *Mountain View, CA; *Cupertino, CA; Madison, WI; Marshall, MN; Yellow Springs, OH; Austin, TX; *Santa Barbara, CA; *Chapel Hills, NC; Bloomington, IN; Cleveland Heights, OH; *Ottawa, Canada; *Boston, MA; *Pullman, WA; *Amherst, MA; *Los Angeles, CA; Tucson, AZ.

COUNTIES

Santa Cruz County, CA; Howard County, MD; Hennepin County, MN; Dade County, FL

STATES

Pennsylvania (state employment only)

Eighteen states now have no restrictions on adult consensual sex acts. They are: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, West Virginia.

- National Gay Task Force Newsletter

Gay Woman Poet

"Beginning with O," Olga Broumas' first book of poetry, has been selected for the Yale Series of Younger Poets. Her subject is sexual love between women. Her sources range from the classical goddesses through fairy tale heroines to modern writers as Anne Sexton and Sylvia Plath.

Broumas' poems portray Lesbianism as a brave new world. A world that women have been tricked (by themselves and men) into avoiding. To the unsure, she offers a refuge in eroticism. Writes one critic, "She confidently approaches a Sapphic sensuality. Broumas is less successful in translating polemic into poetry..."

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Thank

Sweet Lips



Imperator et Rex

by Hector

I would like to thank the Staff and Management of the Twin Peaks Tavern for their cooperation and support of the recent Gamecock Court Auction. The enthusiastic crowd enabled us to raise \$1,518.00 for Operation Concern. Of that amount, \$59.00 has not yet been

turned in; but we have, to date, turned over \$1,459.00 to Operation Concern. Thank you Court members, friends and again, the Staff and Management of the Twin Peaks. The Emperor's Birthday Celebration is coming up Saturday, April 23, at the

Community Center, 330 Grove. Tickets are now on sale - \$2.00 advance, \$2.50 at the door - at the *P.S. Restaurant, 'N Touch, Castro Station and King's Court Custom Barbers. We have a night of high camp, fun and surprises - uninterrupted disco dancing, door prizes every fifteen minutes, entertainment by the one and only Luscious Lorelei - all in all, a beautiful evening. I urge you to attend and bring all your friends. They WILL have a good time!

One of the highlights of the evening will be the Castroettes (who, we understand, have spared no expense on new costuming) in an all-new production. Don't miss their triumphant return to the stage after their smashing success at the Great Depression Dinner & Dance.

We will be out of town again this weekend attending the Denver Coronation. It is surprising to see how far Denver has come with their activities and the immense community support they are shown. We always have a good time in Denver and wish them a successful 1977 Coronation Ball on April 16. The Merced Coronation Ball will be held the same evening, and I want to pass along every good wish for their success.

The Gamecock Court is underwriting the cost of the 1977 Circus-Circus pins. We have had donations already - thank you Jerry Prewitt and Paul Dykstra - and anyone wishing to donate can phone me at home, 626-9081.

The Gamecock Court will have a float in the Gay Day parade, and our Committee Chairpersons, Mike Gerena and Keith Lee, are busy as beavers on this project now. They will need lots and lots of help at the last minute, so keep in touch!

You have probably seen advertising on the CMC Junk Fair to be held at Seaman's Hall on April 23 and 24. The Gamecock Court will have a booth selling baked goods. Donations are needed. The Junk Fair will run from 1:00 - 7:00 pm on Saturday and from 10:00 am - 7:00 pm on Sunday. We need help manning our booth; anyone interested can give me a call at home.

And of course, Pat Gardner is working on the Hollywood Canteen already. This event, a benefit for Operation Concern, will be held at the Community Center on May 21.

☆☆☆☆☆☆

APOLOGY NOTICE

The Pride Foundation and Fern apologize for inadvertently omitting the name of Original Jackson's from their "Thank You List" in the last issue.

Jane Doe-In Brief

by Michael Nameth

KNOW ALL PERSONS that by Appointment the following are to receive all Honours and Entitlements during My Reign:

This Third Day of April in the Year 1977

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Rick Phernetton
Minister of the Secretariat & Postmaster General
Jerry Prewitt
Minister of Correspondence
Melvin Gray
Minister of the Exchequer
Stephen McBride
Minister of Justice
Larry Chessman
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Governess of Upper Market & Castro
Patty Sue Grace
Governor General of South of Market
Frank Benoit
Governor General of Upper Polk
Harry Gardner
Governor General of Lower Polk
Bill Bonney
Governess of All Polk Street
Tenderloin Tessie
Governor General of Larkin Street
Joe Roland
Governess of Larkin Street
Suzie
Governor General of the Tenderloin
Bruce Little
Governess of the Tenderloin
Greta Grass
Governor General of Haight-Ashbury
Lee Overbay
Governess of Haight-Ashbury & Keeper of the Southern Comfort
Pearl
Governor General of Balboa Field & Hayward Field and Keeper of the Balls
Rennis
Governess of Balboa Field & Hayward Field and Keeper of the Bats
Peter (Puffer) Switzer

to be continued. . .

I can understand the ferment in our schools, because our educational system is totally rear-view mirror. It's a dying and outdated system founded on literate values and fragmented and classified data totally unsuited to the needs of the first television generation.

- Marshall McLuhan

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A King Went Forth

Southern Scandals

He was one of those guys you immediately take a liking to. If you put your mind to it, you could envision him on a horse whisking you away to some euphoric trysting place; but he had a way with people from all walks of life, and he had an outlook that was unique because it was always optimistic. He was one of those bartenders that hundreds - perhaps thousands - would seek out; not to lay a burden of woe on or to seek pity for one's own misfortunes. It was always nice to know that his world was much too positive to make room for self-pity and sorrow. He was efficient, fast and honest; and often he had your drink made before you ordered it. He met you on your own terms; he was tolerant and inquisitive, but with a sense of humor that always included you when he was surrounded by admirers. When he told me he was taking a long-planned vacation in Europe, we had a drink. And we toasted his success on a journey that promised fun, and frolic and fond memories long after his return. But it didn't work out that way, and on a fog-bound airstrip called Tenerife off the coast of Spain, the vibrant youth so many of us had come to love was snatched away. His name was Bo Magee, and he was one of the star barmen at the Bolt. Who could see or foretell that the excesses, tragedies and inequities of life would nestle in our midst? A question I could never answer, but I do want to say, Dear God, take care of our Bo. We miss him.

* * *
Bike activities accelerate as the weather im-

proves. This Friday, after the IRS has wiped out this, and several other, paydays, the CMC hosts their annual Tax Break and Bingo Game Run. The cost is only 99¢ which includes at least one free drink and five pitstops. Sign in at Febe's between 7 & 8 PM, and you're bound to have a ball at one of the in-town runs that has always been a success.

The following weekend, the CMC will be center-stage with their 1st Annual Junk Fair, and the \$1 ticket is good for both days starting at 1 PM Sat. and 10 AM on Sun., both days ending at 7 PM. If you want to rent a booth and unload your white elephants, that'll cost you \$10 for both days. That's Sat. & Sun., April 23 & 24, and hope to see you all there.

The following weekend, Inter-Club Fund stages their annual Progressive Dinner Blood Run. If you can doante blood, you get a free ticket; otherwise, the tariff is merely \$3, and most of the South of Market bars are participating. Get on this one! It's Friday, April 29, and believe me, we do need the blood; so if you can give it, by all means do, and have a ball in the process on the progressive dinner run.

READING BEADS & OTHER "JEWELS" . . .

South of Market's newest watering hole opened April 8 on the site of the old Covered Wagon and the late Hot Rocks; it's called the LEATHER NECK (love that name!) and the opening weekend saw a flock of people cavorting around in a most esoteric atmosphere. Check it out; and if you're

into beer and wine, you'll love it. While on the subject of new bars, you should be pleased as punch to know that Gordon's on Polk is closed for remodeling; and the fabled Hilton Barker, entrepreneur of the Mid-night Sun, will reopen it as SHAPES on or about April 21. With Pretty Bobby Hunter designing the interior, SHAPES should glitter, glow and gleam as the newest bistro on Polkstrasse.

Over in the Haight, a new huge disco is opening around July 4, with food and a game room practically right next door to the already-thriving Bones. It will be called the I-BEAM, and rumors abound that it will knock your eyes out. Back on Polk St., Hawaii's gift to San Francisco, Kimo Cochran, will launch a new bar at the corner of Polk & Pine - it will be called LEVELS, and we're all looking forward to that opening. Mark Calhoun's STARLITE ROOM on Market between 7th & 8th and right near the Embassy Theater will make its bid in the galaxy of SF bars in about 30 days. That should be enough to keep you hopping around, shouldn't it? By the way, have you tried Togo's Eatery on Sacramento off Polk? Fantastico sandwiches!

THE HUNKY, THE FUNKY AND THE SPUNKY . . .

Hear Randy Johnson got elected president of the Community Bowling League the other night. Can't understand how that happened. Randy can't even keep score yet. He was last seen taking lessons in a "straight" alley while throwing his balls

around in anticipation of MC'ing the Hookers' Ball, the Queen Mother Ball and the Rip Off Rag Awards, ALL after the Boot Camp Golden Dileaux Awards on May 27. Randy, I hope you find one big enough to fill your 7-10 split, and if you don't know what that is, ask Denny, Mr. Gay SF, the one who nominated you for the post . . . Don't look now kids, but the Gay community of San Francisco has practically everything else except a Gay bank; but don't you worry - another "first" coming your way too, and soon; and if you want to make a deposit, see Mavis who will be the Head Teller or something like that . . . If you managed to get to New Orleans for Mardi Gras this year, you will, no doubt, remember the float entered by the Houston Motorcycle Club there; well, my sweets, they're coming here to do a spectacular number; and from what I hear, they will do one of the most beautiful floats EVER in our Gay Freedom Day Parade . . . Wanna see a hot man? Ron at the Leather Neck - most nights . . . And with the water shortage becoming as critical as it is, you'll do well to remember Virgil Shealey's reminder to conserve: If it's yellow, let it mellow; if it's brown, flush it down! . . . Ed Chaney has this flashy ceramic sculpture show going at he Ambush, and it is quite, er, uh, well-rounded, if I must say so myself. Each piece in the show is hand-made and available for custom and special orders. Be sure to drop in and see the show that will put you into a world of orbs; that's right, orbs. . . (Citizens

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● PERSONAL ADS AND MAIL ORDER PRODUCTS GALORE

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SECTION X PULLOUT

Against Government Entrapment) put on their first big shindig at the Boarding House two Wednesdays ago. Pearl Heart, Sylvester and Bobby Kent wailed out with sounds that people are still raving about. I hope you'll support future CAGE events - they are dynamite, and you might have to use their services sometime.

TAILS OF THE CITY...

There's a new fan club forming in the Valley of the Dolls (Castro) called the MARY STARCA FAN CLUB; and bring out your silk fans because it has

something to do with a former emperor of San Diego... The spunky Bernard Jay swooped in from London last week with a member of the London Police Department and his wife in tow. Margaret and Alan Goss were enthralled with the employees of the Midnight Sun, the *P.S., Twin Peaks, Carnelian Room and other assorted niteries. To those of you that met them and were friendly and kind, you'll never know how much they appreciated your hospitality. Special thanks to Ralph Deming and Stan the Man at Oil Can Harry's who were

most gracious to these two beautiful people... Mr./Ms. Cowboy Contest is set for June 4 at the Gay Center. Persons interested in running for the titles this year should contact any member of the Council of Emperors; and remember, the candidates nights are set for May 4, New Bell; May 11, Castro Station; May 18, Boot Camp; May 25, Kokpit, and June 1, Bones. This year's event will be called the Annual Cowboy/Cowgirl Round-Up, Jamboree, Hoe-Down, Jubilee, Pageant, Stampede fun, fun event. Deadline for entries is May 29... The bar people in Reno will probably NEVER forget Irene McGowan's feat of magic when the Pendulum Trip to Reno converged upon Dave's V.I.P. en masse a couple of weeks ago; when an uninformed bartender refused to cash Irene's check, the lights in the joint went out swiftly and mysteriously. They came back on when Irene got her check cashed while a bald-headed gold miner won Everett's offer for a shave and a haircut - and are you reading this Thumper?... Don't look now, but the wheels are turning toward holding the Coronation of San Francisco's 6th Emperor in the Rotunda at City Hall (NOT the Rotunda at the Wild Goose). Chief Administrative Officer Boas is a bit reluctant at this point, but the pressure is being put on; and after

T-shirts - that's right, 75 T-shirts - will be raffled off at Circus-Circus on July 31 - the raffle tickets are only \$1 and will be on sale soon... AND my last exclusive: "IT'S TWUE, IT'S TWUE" will debut at the Castro Theater on or about July 19. Tickets are \$9 for the main floor and \$8 for the balcony. Two performances only and being put on by Jim Devore's JUKNOW Productions. If you saw the Toad Hall show at Beach Blanket Babylon last year, you won't want to miss this one. Auditions will be held on Sat. & Sun., April 23 & 24, between 10 AM and 1 PM at the Gay

Center, 330 Grove. Bring two pieces of music as an accompanist will be provided. This musical review promises to be fantastic; when tickets go on sale May 1, I expect to see all of you in line. The Castro Theater holds 1500 people, so plan now to attend "IT'S TWUE, IT'S TWUE." If you can sing, dance, act or provide behind the scenes help, your cooperation will be most welcome.

That winds it up for this issue. Say 'HI' to Andy and Manuel at the door of the Stud; they are fine people. Love all of you.

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all, September 17 is Emperor Norton's birthday, isn't it? And he'll be 118 years old.

A contingent of lovelies from Long Beach showed up in town too last week with Gary Harvey, Eddie Congress and Larry Howland leading the pack and spreading joy and cheer all over the place... And is it true yet ANOTHER new leather bar is opening on the Miracle Mile to be called THE ARENA and very, very soon... Congratulations to Emperor Hector and the Gamecock Court and many, many thanks for that auction at Twin Peaks which netted over \$1,500 for Operation Concern. Remember, 75

Porn Corner

by George Robert

Angel Johnny

Well, the Spartan certainly had a different type of porno premiere last Monday, *Angel Johnny*, produced/directed/acted by various types wandering around or doing un-knowns from Montreal. I say this, because there were no press kits, so I can't give names. Such is life.

This film was odd. Perhaps the director read too much Burroughs, especially *Naked Lunch*, but it certainly was not "the best thing since Wakefield Poole's *Bijou*" as touted on the invitation and poster.

Take a lanky odd-ball, dressed in Nazi drag, performing unmentionable acts with a stuffed bird, or another funny character (they didn't use names in the dialogue) with his masturbating mannequin, one large muscular, shaved head black who performed the only decent sex act with Angel Johnny (an ethereal blond who is "on vacation from Vermont"). Imagine, and I'm sure some can, being you.

loaded on some combination of drugs, and tripping around a combination South of the Slot/Barracks, with almost fellini-like types wandering around or doing strange things in their rooms. This is the nature of the film. The opening shot was great: a small room, floored wall-paper, and lots of *de rigueur* ferns, et al. Only in Montreal.

Unfortunately, some scenes went on and on and one—the editing job obviously was not quite what it should have been, and the sound track...? Is it the Spartan, or are all porn films like this?

Actually, I liked the film, it was different, had humor and the photography was pretty good. Maybe after it's out, the sound's improved, I'd go see it again. Beats the hell out of some of these flicks where they just groan, and don't get a decent hard-on. Etc., thank you.



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APRIL 28-MAY 4

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The Nelson Brothers
and
Michael Delfino

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A capacity crowd packed Hayward Field to witness the opening day softball game between the *P.S. and Rainbow Cattle Company, starting the 5th year of the Community Softball League. photo by Henri Leleu & Assoc.



Members of OIL CAN HARRY'S "Oilers" eagerly watch the teams they will shortly be playing in the Community Softball League.



"WITH RIMLESS GLASSES"

"GOLDER SHOWER QUEEN"

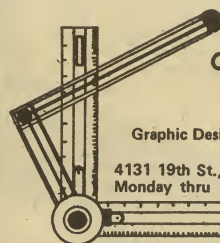
is what I hope to be nominated and voted as next month at the Boot Camp's "Golden Dildeaux Awards."

However, please remember:

As much as I love titles or material awards, I love GOLD WATER more! So deny me anything at all. I'll get over it . . . but PLEASE don't withhold the GOLD WATER, for to me, it represents a pleasurable existence.

It is much better to tell people how to get on than to tell them where to get off :: ::

Do yourself a favor — extend a helping hand to someone who needs it. It feels sooo good!

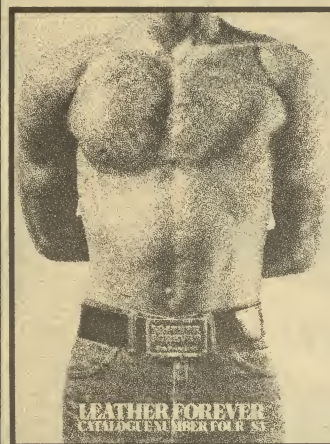


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Community Softball League April Schedule

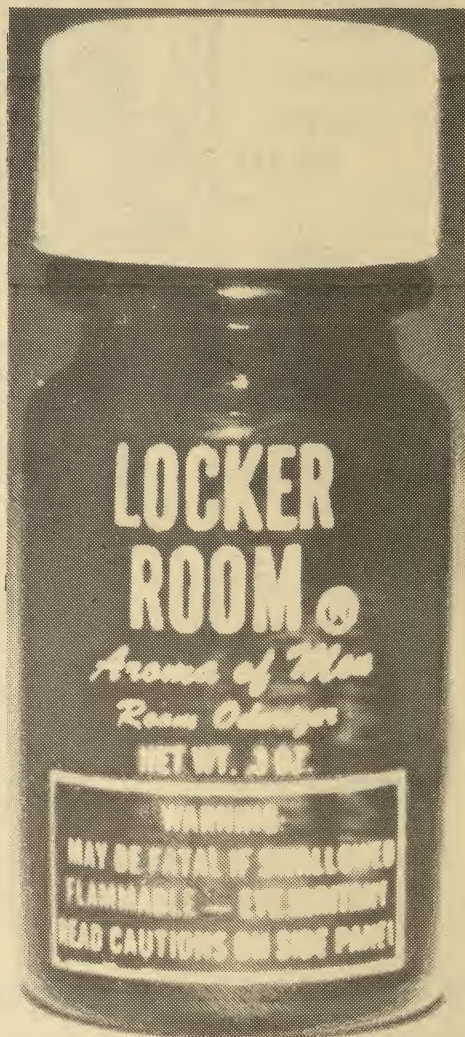
(All games at Balboa Park except those designated at Sacramento.)

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| 16 Sat Noon | The Trapp v. The Ambush |
| 16 Sat 2 pm | Oil Can Harry's v. The Badlands |
| 17 Sun 11 am | South of Market v. The Bodyworks |
| 17 Sun 11 am | Sutter's Mill v. Fun Time Tours |
| 17 Sun 1 pm | Pendulum v. Silver Sage * |
| 17 Sun 1 pm | Hombre v. Toad Hall |
| 17 Sun 1 pm | The Mint v. Hawaiian Hut (Sacto.) |
| 23 Sat Noon | The Bodyworks v. *P.S. |
| 23 Sat 2 pm | Rainbow Cattle Co. v. South of Market |
| 24 Sun 11 am | The Trapp v. The Badlands |
| 24 Sun 11 am | Toad Hall v. Fun Time Tours |
| 24 Sun 1 pm | The Mint v. The Pendulum |
| 24 Sun 1 pm | Hawaiian Hut v. Silver Sage |
| 24 Sun 3 pm | Ambush v. Oil Can Harry's |
| 24 Sun 3 pm | Sutter's Mill v. Hombre |
| 30 Sat Noon | Oil Can Harry's v. Toad Hall |
| 30 Sat 2 pm | Fun Time Tours v. Ambush |

* Delayed broadcast, 7 pm, KDHS, 84 AM

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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

April 1977 - VD Awareness Month

"Don't give a dose to the one you love most" is the title of a rock song which many San Franciscans have obviously not heard. In 1976, the gonorrhea rate in San Francisco ranked third among cities with a population of 200,000 or more, while the infectious syphilis rate ranked second! In 1977, it is estimated that one of every four San Franciscans between the ages of 15-45 will catch VD!

REPORTED CASES OF INFECTIOUS VD - S.F.

| | Syphilis | Gonorrhea |
|------|----------|-----------|
| 1955 | 143 | 1,383 |
| 1966 | 536 | 7,420 |
| 1972 | 1,130 | 13,067 |
| 1973 | 1,463 | 13,251 |
| 1974 | 1,573 | 14,354 |
| 1975 | 1,795 | 16,019 |
| 1976 | 1,523 | 17,014 |

Gonorrhea cases reported are continuing on an upward trend with a 6.7% increase in 1976. Much of this increase was the result of elevated reporting from private physicians. VD among teenagers decreased in 1976.

April has been designated as VD AWARENESS MONTH by Mayor George Moscone. In his proclamation, he urges every citizen "to become aware of syphilis and gonorrhea, both symptoms and complications, and to make others equally aware. And I do further urge every San Francisco citizen to get a VD check-up this month."

Throughout the month, our VD Information Line will provide tape messages after 6:00 pm on Gonorrhea, Syphilis, the new Gonorrhea Strain, and the other Sexually Transmitted Diseases. During daytime hours, staff will be available to answer questions from the public. The Information Line number is 495-6463.

Finally, VD AWARENESS DAYS are scheduled April 19 at 18th and Castro Streets, and April 26 at California and Polk Streets. Hours will be from 12:00 to 1:30 pm and activities will include free VD testing, pamphlets and counseling.

There is no insurmountable solitude. All paths lead to the same goal: to convey to others what we are.

- Pablo Neruda

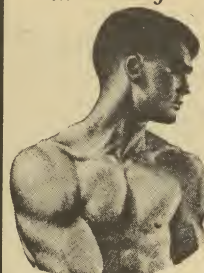
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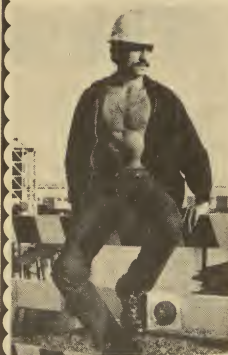
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Tony R-I'll need \$ U took to pay hospital. Help! JB E9

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Donald McLean

"Hold Me!", Charles Pierce—
Or "Travesties" of "The Drunkard"

Show Biz in Review

Stage: The Drunkard

For the unsophisticated, the thought of a revival at the Montgomery Playhouse of W.H. Smith's 1840 masterpiece "The Drunkard" could be great fun, with the audience hissing the evil villain who destroys the noble hero by turning him onto demon rum, sending his pretty ingenue wife in hopeful despair to taking in mend-

the evening is interminable. The play has little pacing, droning along with long dramatic pauses that mean nothing, and what should be a bright gallop becomes a monotonous shuffle. Ann Deblinger offers a good supporting turn as Mad Agnes; the original songs by Ed Wetland and Chuck Denton are pleasant if too contemporary; the costumes by Eliza Chugg are dandy; and the inventive set by Ron Madonia and Michael Kroschel captures per-

Jules Feiffer's "Hold Me!" at the Little Fox. Feiffer's sardonic cartoons are brought to life superbly under Caymichael Patten's fluid and pointed direction and a cast of five first-rate actors.

Feiffer's jaundiced view of marriage, human needs and human insecurities is incisive and often funny, often bitter, but always entertaining and theatrically valid. We laugh easily if the sketch doesn't hit too close to home, less easily but with wry agreement when he zeroes in on our particular foible, fear or ego weakness... but we have to laugh because Feiffer understands the day-to-day problems in relationships with ourselves and others that we all must cope with.

The evening flows steadily from one sketch to another, each player having their moment (though Richard Schaal has a higher average overall). Whether it be Rose Arrick talking to God about saving her husband's life after a quick rundown of her turbulent life, both funny and touching; Schaal as a baseball pitcher who gets paranoid everyone is staring at him; Anna Levine as that nasty sprite who dances through his cartoons; or Elayne Heilveil dancing with a rose between her teeth to entice her husband, William Snikowski, with his sexual fantasies, only to have him go limp when she takes the rose out of her mouth, "Hold Me!" is continually entertaining, the majority of the sketches working. Not all the "Dance To..." sequences work. Occasionally Feiffer's bubbles hit the ground and become heavy, but revue is the hardest show biz format to maintain, and "Hold Me!" maintains 80% of the time.

The set by Kert Lundell is clever and the lighting by Edward M. Greenberg a subtle triumph. It is impossible to describe exactly what is happening on the Little Fox stage these nights, you'll just have to take a chance and see for yourself. If you enjoy a stimulating, thought-provoking solid evening of entertainment with an exceptional cast, then hie thee to the Little

Stage: Hold Me!

The brightest evening in town these days has to be



Claudia Ream & Adrian Kuester sing a musical tale of alcoholic woe in "The Drunkard."

ing. It's got all the ingredients of the tearful soap opera, but never to be taken seriously. At least, that's the way it's usually done.

However, in the current Montgomery version, director Diana Ayers completely misses the concept of a spoof and has allowed her company to play in every level of style, no two being the same, and with no sense of broad declarative campery. Claudia Ream is appealing as the long-suffering wife Mary, and she plays with a twinkle as if commenting upon the absurdity of it all; the dastardly drunkard husband is played by handsome Adrian Kuester in realistic breast-beating fashion as if he expected us to identify emotionally instead of chuckling objectively. Only Gail Chugg as the villainous lawyer hits the right level to make this hackneyed play work; he chortles with malevolent glee as he plots and destroys, overstating in the grand style so lacking everywhere else onstage.

Ayers has also regarded the script as sacrosanct, not cutting a word of Smith's original play, and



Richard Schaal headlines a shining cast in Jules Feiffer's "Hold Me!"

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Stage: Travesties

The latest entrant in the A.C.T. repertoire at the Geary is Tom Stop-

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pard's "Travesties." Stoppard's verbose word-play has moments of electrifying theatricality and a tour de force turn by Raye Birk that alone makes the evening worthwhile. Fortunately, the A.C.T. ensemble offers some of their best work in "Travesties." Barbara Dirickson and Deborah May as Oscar Wilde's Cecily and Gwendolyn are exquisite, especially in a dazzling spoof of the tea scene from "The Importance of Being Earnest" done to the tune of "Galagher and Shean." Sydney Walker as James



Raye Birk and Barbara Dirickson as a minor government official and a Socialist librarian in "Travesties."

Joyce is masterly. Earl Boen as Lenin offers excellent support in a role that could easily be dispensed with, and James R. Winkler is affectingly hysterical as the father of Dadaism.

But top honors go to Raye Birk as a minor government official who recalls Stoppard's imaginary meeting in Zurich, 1917, of Joyce, Lenin and Tristan Tzara, founder of Dadaism, when Joyce asked him to act in a production of "Earnest." Puffed with his own elegant importance, Henry Carr (Birk) takes centerstage with his fuzzy recollections, debating art and political revolution with his contemporaries.

Unfortunately, Stoppard falls in love with his own voice and witticisms, beating us endlessly to death with clever bon mot upon clever bon mot. Suddenly a diamond springs from the rhinestones and we laugh heartily, but he makes a tremendous demand upon his audience to listen attentively for a 90 minute first act and glean the gems from the mundane. He is a self-indulgent playwright, and "Travesties" is little more than a

verbal exercise to display his mastery of word games. No questions are raised nor resolved; Stoppard just tells us his views of art, revolution, garbled history and modern man in his dotage. Fortunately, he tells it entertainingly when he finally relinquishes his favorite dramatic form, the soliloquy, and allows the actors to illustrate rather than dictate.

"Travesties" should be seen not so much for what is said, but the way he says it. The counterpoint with Wilde's "Earnest" is highly amusing, the acting company at their uniform best and the direction by Nagle Jackson is exceptional.

I find Stoppard a superficial playwright who deals with weighty subjects in superficial ways, but his "Travesties" at A.C.T. gets a royal treatment of a common debate told in noble prose.

Club: Charles Pierce

O! Blue Eyes is back (no, not at the Circle Star, fools) at The City for another 10 days. Charles Pierce, now officially described as Le Grande Imposter, is back in San Francisco with The Living Dolls (now performing to "A Chorus Line"), Bette and Tallulah, a movie parody of Pierce in the pool with "Jaws" and his inimitable mouth. The fastest tongue in the West now promises us a new act by 1990; but in



Charles Pierce with the late Freddie Prinze and Jack Albertson in his recent appearance on "Chico and The Man."

the meantime, the old one is still getting pretty good mileage. While devoted fans will undoubtedly recognize the bulk of the material, La Pierce always offers a few surprises every show, toying with his audience, kidding himself and throwing out zingers as the mood strikes him. Gone this time around are Jeanette on the swing, Kate and Carol; but Mae East, Marlene and, of course, Bette are still here to

camp and carry on. The joy of Charles Pierce is he knows his audience and is always in command; if he feels you are trying to second guess him, he changes mid-stream; his bag of tricks is remarkable, his professionalism a joy to behold and his wicked sense of humor a welcome relief.

If you've never seen Charles Pierce... well, that's too ridiculous to discuss. He's at The City until April 24.



Shields & Yarnell as mannequins at breakfast in the Venetian Room.

Club: Shields & Yarnell

Union Square's own Robert Shields and his personable wife Lorene Yarnell returned in triumph atop Nob Hill instead of the bottom, playing for two weeks in the Venetian Room. If they had looked for years, they couldn't have found a room more unsuited to their brand of dance and pantomime. The stage was low, so that all footwork went unseen beyond the third row, and a good deal of the effect was lost. Also, though both performers are unquestionably talented, their act is structured in a con-

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cert format that has no continuity and a good deal of their material is thrown away and unworthy of them. Best of the evening was Shield's incomparable "The Biker," two mannequins having a messy breakfast, and a film of them in Union Square in the old days. The film was the highpoint of the hour, showing them at their best playing off the vagaries of passers-by (also, it could be seen clearly from start to finish, more than can be said for their act).

It was an unfortunate booking on both sides. I love Shields & Yarnell... but not in the Venetian Room and not with such a disjointed act.

Film: It's Alive

It certainly is; but if we

all rush down to the Alhambra or St. Francis with big sticks, maybe we can kill it before it spreads!

This tired bit of rehashed trash was originally released a few years back as a second runner for the drive-in circuit, where it rightfully belonged. With the infinite wisdom that only studio hacks can have, someone decided to re-release it to try and capitalize upon the rash of baby horror stories so prevalent these days. Ya know, the old "wife gives birth to monster" story, filmed on a budget of \$2.98.

This time, wife Sharon Farrell (looking dreadful) has her second child; upon immediate birth of an 11 pound baby, baby kills five doctors and nurses with his claws and escapes through a skylight. How the baby can climb a skylight is never explained,

nor is why wife has a monster to begin with; but don't let trivial details get in your way. For 91 minutes, husband John Ryan (known as "Mumbles" to his friends) and the police search for baby; baby kills a lot of people; Farrell cries (as well she should; has she worked since this film?) and the audience either guffaws or leaves. It is written (hah!), produced and directed (double hah!) by Larry Cohen, who makes Roger Corman look like Fellini.

Film: The Demon Seed

As usually is the way, the book "Demon Seed" by Dean R. Koontz is far superior to the film. This is not to say you will not enjoy watching Julie Christie being terrorized by Proteus IV, a computerized brain that decides to create its own child via Christie's body and holds her prisoner while impregnating her with a metal dildo; but "Demon Seed" is not a horror film in the conventional sense, nor a particularly stirring comment upon our mechanized society. The ending is the ultimate copout a la "Rosemary's Baby." Although there are some splendid special effects, I found "Demon Seed" a disappointment that satisfies on no level, despite excellent performances by Miss Christie and Fritz Weaver. Read the book if you want an engrossing, frightening experience; the film is cold and uninvolved.



Julie Christie waits to be impregnated by a computer in "Demon Seed."

Club: Lee Horwin

Her voice and style conjure imagery of a sleek chanteuse of the 30's leaning decadently against a battered piano in a smoke-filled saloon at 1 AM weaving her disillusioned songs of lost loves and dreams with a valiant attempt to rise above her sordid surroundings while shedding a tear for what might have been. Her name is Lee Horwin; she is a torch stylist of power and commitment. Not all of her material, an eclectic selection of songs of regret, works for her. Her opening number, "Sweet Misery," should be discarded or moved further down in the show, her closing "Forever Young" leaves the audience on a heavy down note, and there is a self-indulgent song entitled "Brandy" that is lyrically inane and only more of what has already gone before. Her act could withstand more variety, but along the way, she does create a small achievement. With a powerful belter alto name she utilizes fully, she excels in creating little one-act vignettes of emotional deprivation, acting as well as singing, and she

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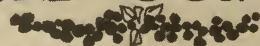
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sweeps us into her world of bitterness and battered promises. Her rendition of "Non Je Ne Regrette Rien" is probably the finest since Piaf's original, "No More" from "Golden Boy" is dynamic and exciting, "Jazzman" and "Taxi Dancer" are first-rate material for her unique style, and when she pays tribute to Duke Ellington with "In My Solitude"/"Mood Indigo," her voice in the lower register is reminiscent of Billy Daniels. And there is a rousing "Bright Lights and Promises" that reveals the Broadway rock quality that's a guaranteed showstopper.

Currently at The Mocambo until April 24, Lee Horwin is an exciting young lady who may well be the last of a vanishing breed — the torch singer.

Film: Audrey Rose

"Audrey Rose," now playing at the Royal on Polk St., is an interesting film about a young girl who discovers she is the immediate reincarnation of another girl who died violently two minutes before Ivy was born. Audrey Rose was the dead girl who burned to death in a car crash, and as Ivy approaches her birthday, Audrey becomes more and more dominant.

It is not a horror film, though director Robert Wise tries valiantly to generate suspense; but it is interesting on the subject of reincarnation. The film brooks no disbelief-



Marsha Mason and John Beck listen for the voice of "Audrey Rose."

ers; there IS reincarnation as her harried mother has after death. Because the little more to do than look film never decides what it is trying to be, horror or panic-stricken and hysterical, which she does splendidly; and that fine actor doesn't work because we never really care about any of the people involved. Frank de Felitta could not transcribe his book to the screen with the same intensity of unemotional spectators as we watch newcomer Susan Swift as Ivy/Audrey struggle for her identity. Miss Swift is a find, a talented child actress of disarming subtlety. Marsha Mason



Robert Shar portrays an Israeli commando in "Black Sunday."

itself. "Audrey Rose" is a thought-provoking film that makes you speculate; but it won't keep you on the edge of your seat.

Film: Black Sunday

A film that will keep you in constant suspense is "Black Sunday" at the Cinema 21. Marthe Keller, Bruce Dern and Bekim Fehmu portray Arab terrorists, members of the Black September group, who plot to kill 80,000 spectators at the Superbowl game in Miami. The conspiracy involved the use of the Goodyear blimp to spray bullets from overhead, and far-fetched as it sounds, it makes for a thrilling and engrossing film under John Frankenheimer's astute and breathtaking direction. Never does he allow the mounting suspense to subside, aided greatly by John Williams' ominous score.

Robert Shaw, Fritz Weaver and Steven Keats are the commandos trying to thwart the terrorists; and the cast is excellent from start to finish. If we want to quibble, we can maintain Shaw and Keller's accents seem strangely out of place for their supposed nationalities; we might even say we've seen Dern play his beady-eyed psycho many times before; but it works

and that's the important thing.

If you're looking for a good, suspenseful and gripping film that never lets up, then "Black Sunday" is a perfect gem.

Donald McLean

"Crimes Against Nature"

The Gay Men's Theater Collective opened its first production, "Crimes Against Nature," at the Gay Community Center on March 25. The performance was met with unanimous and enthusiastic approval and support. This theater piece focuses on the unsatisfactory and ultimately oppressive techniques that individuals develop in order to survive in this abusive society. The production represents a recognition that collective, supportive work and play are an alternative means of survival. This ensemble of ten Gay men emerged from a workshop that began nine months ago.

"Crimes Against Nature" will be performed again on April 15-17 and 22-24 at Gumption Theater, 1563 Page (near Masonic) in S.F. Friday and Saturday performances will be at 8:30 pm and Sunday performances at 8:00 pm. A donation of \$2 is requested.

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Sweet Lips Sez

by Dick Walters

A big THANKS to all the wonderful and fun people that helped to make the 7th Hanging such a ball.

A few kind words to some of the misinformed individual writers for a Brand 'X' paper - and I do mean misinformed!

First: Stray Feathers from the Hat Box ... The very first Emperor contest which was won by Marcus I before Norton did have a female candidate for Emperor, and she came in second. Her name: Pukalani (God Rest Her Soul).

Second: Sarah Sportscoop ... Why don't you write a sports column? I have never badmouthed the C.S.L. In fact, if I wanted to blow my own horn as you seem to blow your own asshole so often, it would be that I did have a team one year and had a hell of a lot of fun and helped the following years. So get your shit straight. And if you weren't so self-centered, you'd realize that the people you write about are the ones doing a hell of a lot for the community. Can't wait to see you at the Rip Off Rag Awards as a co-emcee.

Third: Denny ... Tavern Guild publishes a financial report to its members monthly. They also do not blow their horn as much as they should; BUT just at the last meeting FUNDS were given to the following: Dade County Coalition for Humanistic Rights of Gays, \$760; Gay Action Group, \$100; Fire and Safety Committee (to mail out fire safety notices), \$100. I don't think that this is too bad. The T.G.S.F. also has a fund in case a member needs emergency monies - would you like to know how much has NEVER been paid back by these people that have borrowed it and still go around drinking and living high off the hog and knocking T.G.? But a real 'Thank You' for the analysis of my lifestyle.

An apology to the fabulous Stark of the Andromeda for being misinformed on your being fired, and GLAD to see that you are still doing a great job there.

SAD NEWS: We just lost one of the nicest members of our community, Prince Consort Freddie Reiss, lover of Empress III Shirley for untold years ... our condolences!

Don't forget the Polk Street Fair on April 16-18 ... it should really be something different ... Sorry that some of us will be at the Denver Coronation, but we'll catch Monday's festivities.

Larry Casas of the *P.S. for Mr. Circus-Circus this year ... remember the funds raised are for Operation

Concern which is an ARM of the Tavern Guild, and over \$30,000 is contributed to this worthwhile organization yearly.

Thank you, VooDoo, for stopping by on your wonderful Annual Easter Walk ... you still know how to do it.

Thank you Polk Street Sally and Roy and Larry of the *P.S. for just being the wonderful people that you are ... but Sally, PLEASE get Crista! the cat fixed so we don't have to listen to Howard moaning for a piece all the time.

Bo Peep, straighten up your act. Warren of the Q.T., it was nice of you to allow me to have your T.G. meeting at the Kokpit ... and it was a real shit disturber; yet, a lot was accomplished.

Welcome home, Tacky Hacky ... understand you devastated the Rusty Nail and the Stud in L.A. HI, Kevin!

Dick and Jim of Denver, I think that you should think about moving to S.F. in the near future, seeing as you had so much fun here and you were great houseguests. I am looking forward to this weekend in Denver with

you.

Bambi of Original Jackson's, thanks for the help. It is nice that together with the people here we raised \$135 for St. Anthony's Dining Room ... you're always there when needed.

Jim Ostlund of Castro Station ... don't ever wear that short, short T-shirt again. It makes me do nasty things ... Hi Joe Urban, Bob Paulson and Keith McL, the tireless workers of Bella's World (flowers for ALL occasions).

Hawaiian Danny ... get yourself in a better frame of mind. After all, you must remember you are a real Hawaiian Princess.

Love and peace to all, and DO try to get along together.

Iowa City Gay Rights

Some months ago the Human Relations Commission of Iowa City began revisions of that city's human rights laws. The seven member commission has held several meetings with the city council to work out a proposed amendment that would change the law to cover Gay civil rights for the first time.

On March 21 the commission met with the council members in a public meeting and after being urged by several city council members, the commission voted 5 to 2 to delete certain sections

forbidding discrimination because of "affectional preference" in private housing. However, the sections of the proposed amendment forbidding discrimination in employment and public accommodations because of "affectional preference" remain. Thus, the first public "reading" of the amendment has now been accomplished.

Three more public "readings" at weekly intervals are required before the city council votes.

In an interview, the director of the Catholic Student Center of the University of Iowa stated that although at least one councilperson is unhappy about the deletion of rights in the private housing sector, the proposal will likely pass. Passage would make Iowa City the first city in Iowa to pass civil rights laws to protect the rights of Gay people.

Gay Asian Group Forms

G.A.S.G., the Gay Asian Support Group, has organized and is seeking interested Asian men and women. The new association has grown out of the Third World Gay Caucus and can be reached at 885-3483. The next meeting is Sunday, April 17 (1-3 pm) at 32 Page Street.

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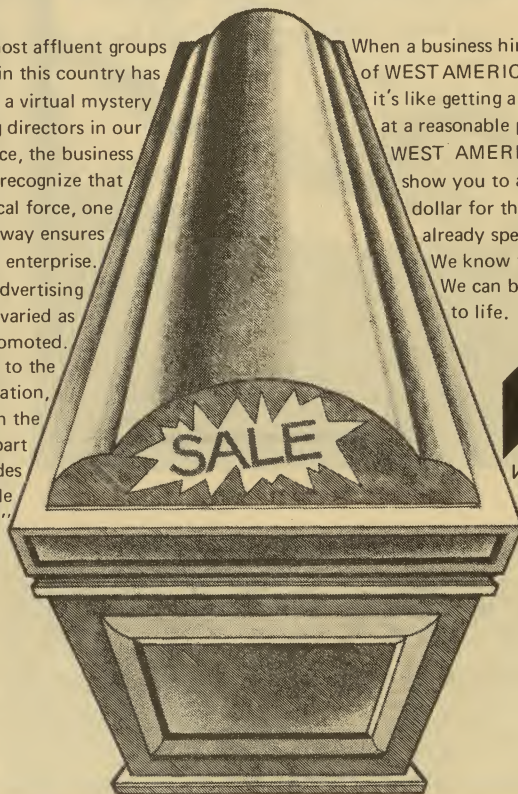
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Tales of Tessi Tura

Loose Woman Bites The Dust
 In Southern California

by George Heymont



BEVERLY SILLS as Violetta may look pretty happy but within three hours, Paris' famous courtesan will croak from too much booze and carrying on. Sometimes decadence takes a pretty heavy toll, but at least here it is done with Verdi's beautiful music.

For Palm Sunday, I flew to San Diego with Stephen, my pet bombast, at my side. Luckily there was pre-flight seat selection so we didn't have to go through the usual scene of Stephen tossing some little old lady into the aisle so he could get a good window seat.

The occasion was the closing performance of the San Diego Opera season, Verdi's LA TRAVIATA starring Beverly Sills. In all fairness, if you want three and a half hours of teary-eyed audiences being treated to beautiful music, there is no better way than to watch "Bubbles" die of consumption at a matinee.

This production of TRAVIATA is the same one that was seen on PBS television last fall after being videotaped at Wolf Trap. Physically it is a sumptuous production, which, coupled with the sensitive direction by Tito Capobianco and Ms. Sills' persuasive acting, set a tone to the performance that is rarely achieved. TRAVIATA is, of course, the story of Camille, the famous courtesan, who coughs her way to death during the course of true love and an evening's opera. Too often we see sopranos who are either far too healthy to be believable, or who are, for technical reasons, concentrating on the athletic demands of making it

through the evening. Verdi's Violetta is to a soprano what cross-country is to a runner. It tests you under every terrain, and if you can make it through the role in one piece, you can be pretty proud of your work.

However, when a soprano can bring such tenderness, understanding, and clarity to a role as Sills does, it is an artistic achievement. Considering that she has sung the role of Violetta several hundred times, the freshness and intensity of her characterization are remarkable.

This is the first production of TRAVIATA I have ever seen where certain important points were brought out clearly but with great delicacy: that Violetta is truly the sadder-but-wiser girl in her crowd, and that no matter how many friends and lovers surround her, she is always alone, and well aware of that fact. The pacing is important in the first act particularly, where Violetta has just recovered from a long illness, and although a bit tipsy, her weakness and her boredom with life leave her less rowdy than her friends. When Alfredo expresses his love to her, Sills manages to project a poignant wonder, as if saying, "I've been to just too many of these parties, and there's still some nice young man trying to hit on

me!!" And by avoiding many of the climactic operatic gestures generally employed, Sills manages to achieve a continuity of character throughout the evening. Thus she brings out the far more sensitive and introspective nature of Violetta.

Vocally the performance was beautiful, most touching in the final death scene, where Violetta is again alone in a cavernous bedroom, and everyone else seems to have gotten wise far too late. A pleasant surprise was the compassionate singing of Ryan Edwards in the role of Giorgio Germont, Alfredo's father, who demands that Violetta sacrifice her happiness to Alfredo to save his family's reputation.

As Alfredo, William McDonald sang very well, but was too detached for a young man having a hot love affair. He tended to play to the audience and appeared uncomfortable interacting with the rest of the cast. Whatever warmth he may have lacked was easily made up for by the passion which flowed from Miss Sills and Ryan Edwards.

An interesting side note: this is one of the few times I have seen Sills perform with two men who are both taller than she, and it made her Violetta more fragile. I once saw a performance of PURITANI where the tenor had been costumed in a huge feathered hat and Joan Crawford pumps but could barely manage an embrace higher than her shoulders. Good tenors are rare enough; tall ones are almost a miracle these days.

* * *

We spoke with Beverly backstage after the performance where she confessed that her afternoon concert in Golden Gate Park last fall was one of the most beautiful singing experiences in her career. In addition to performing in San Francisco this fall in PURITANI, she will be reviving MANON at the New York City Opera and will also sing two performances with them as Adele in FLEDERMAUS. For those who have not seen her as Manon, it should not be missed; this is one of the definitive performances in the Sills career. There is a good chance that NYC Opera will make this production available to California audiences on their Fall visit to Los Angeles. Any of you planning a trip to Hollywood around Thanksgiving ought to keep that in mind.

Miss Sills also revealed wonders whether the that she had dropped plans of singing Lady Macbeth in San Diego in '78 but is very excited about the world premiere of an opera she will do there based on a play by Jean Cocteau. She promised it will be "absolutely hair-raising."

For those of you week-ending in San Diego, the Little America Westgate Hotel at 1055 2nd St. serves a fabulous Sunday brunch (right across the street from the Opera House). The lighting above the buffet tables sometimes plays strange tricks, though. I once saw a little lady fiendishly attacking a bathtub full of what looked like chopped liver which turned out to be chocolate mousse. Just remember, if you "pig out" on the brunch, you can always walk it off later at the San Diego Zoo.

Recently, San Diego released the lineup for their 1977-78 opera season with six weeks of performances in the Fall and six weeks in the Spring. Opening night will be October 2, with Sills starring as THE MERRY WIDOW. Also in October will be Mozart's DON GIOVANNI, and Bizet's CARMEN. Those of you who took to Josella Ligi in San Francisco's ANDREA CHENIER two years ago will want to know that she is singing Micaela in CARMEN this year.

The Spring season will feature Verdi's FALSTAFF, Puccini's MADAMA BUTTERFLY, and Prokofiev's THE LOVE FOR THREE ORANGES, a rarely performed but beautiful opera.

For brochures and ticket information, write to: SAN DIEGO OPERA, P.O. Box 988, San Diego, CA 92112, or call (714) 232-7636.

Local Clerics Object To Ordained Lesbian

The ordination of Ellen Barrett to the Episcopalian priesthood earlier this year continues to cause comment. The most recent "viewing with alarm" is a letter circulated by three of the diocesan clergy and addressed to S.F. Bishop Myers urging him not to license Ellen to officiate here because of the "clear biblical condemnation of homosexuality." One

pression is to everyone, and constructive ways to deal with it.

The day begins at 8:30 am with a panel discussing "What is This Thing Called Depression?" with Jerome Motto, Professor of Psychiatry, UC School of Medicine; Judith Cohen, Ass't Professor of Epidemiology, UC Berkeley; and Aiko Oda, 776-4133.

on the faculty of the Wright Institute.

The audience will then participate in workshops, choosing from a vast list including depression and children, aging, minorities, jobless, the Gay world, the divorced.

For registration and information, call the S.F. Mental Health Ass'n at 776-4133.

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"Depression" Aired

A day-long symposium on "Personal Depression: Our Common Experience" will be held on Saturday, April 23, at the USF campus, Fulton and Parker Streets.

Sponsored by the S.F. Mental Health Ass'n and other Bay Area groups, the event will provide a clearer understanding of how common mental de-

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Jock Strip

by Irene

The Community Softball League opened its fifth season in a grand and glorious manner on April 3 with the *P.S. and the Rainbow Cattle Co. entertaining upwards of three thousand cheering fans - a true cross-section of the Gay community and its friends.

The game, a spectator-pleasing contest, ended in a victory for the highly-regarded Rainbow Cattle Co., 11-6 over a surprisingly competitive *P.S. team resplendent in scarlet and impressive in their determination to put forth

a creditable performance. That they did. Due in no small part to a superlative coaching debut by the Nureyev of the batting box, Mr. Jack Burton.

As for the success of the opening day ceremonies, all credit should be given to the labor of love by the opening day committee and the CSL Executive Board - comprised of old war horses Jay Platt, Mark Brown, Mark Thistle, Jerry Pritikin and newcomers Paul Ruehl, Everett Hedrick, Jerry Kelly, Wally Walden and Jack Tedrick.



The well-known tenor Walter Hinton of the S.F. Opera commenced the pre-game festivities with the National Anthem.

photo by Henri Leleu & Assoc.

In the San Jose Area



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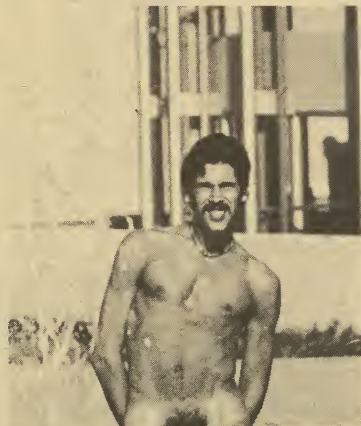


photo by Art James

THE PENINSULA'S BEST GO-GO DANCERS

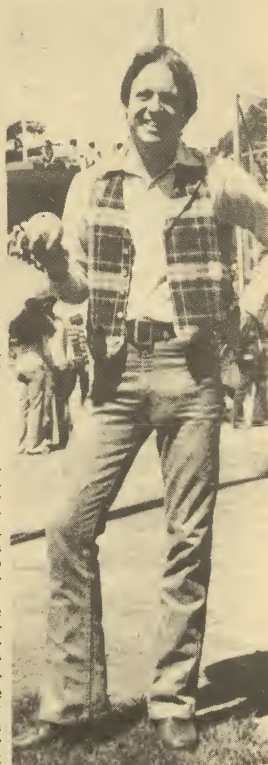


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Selflessness and group concern were the primary forces behind their efforts. While there were the run-of-the-mill disagreements, expected when a group as diverse as the CSL leadership get together, the result was one of unity and development for the good of the players and the enjoyment and pride of the fans.

Also instrumental in the success of opening day proceedings were the management of Oil Can Harry's, the *P.S. and The Ambush - whose Kerry Bowman was responsible for the fine sound system. Many others were involved. Walter Hinton of the S.F. Opera, Armistead Maupin of the San Francisco Chronicle, whose throwing out of the first orange was given national publicity and innumerable others - all of whom we, in the CSL, thank and invite to participate in our future League functions, in whatever capacity they wish. CSL is a community project open to everybody simpatico with our needs and lifestyle.

While the *P.S. and the Rainbow Cattle Co. cavorted on the field, representatives of the other fourteen teams beflow-ered the stands and the sidelines with bright new uniforms and an optimism usually seen only in Major League Grapefruit



Using an "orange" instead of the traditional softball, Armistead Maupin, author of the popular "TALES OF THE CITY" in the S.F. Chronicle, threw out the first "pitch" signaling the start of the 5th year of the Community Softball League in San Francisco.

photo by Henri Leleu & Assoc.

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Leagues where every team is a winner until the bell rings. Such is the case in the 1977 CSL. Every team feels they can go the whole way and that is how it should be. As I've said to my players, over and over, winning is not absolutely required but thinking you can and playing to win ARE.

With that in mind, I would like, for the first time in my five years in the CSL, to make some predictions:

DIVISION A

With all due regard to the Rainbow Cattle Co, who have played together for two years now and can beat any team in the CSL when they're on - I think that The Trapp from the Deepest Tenderloin will take Division A. Paul Ruehl, he of the fabulous face and the mystic mouth, has done one hell of a job in bringing together as colorful (if prison pallor can be deemed a color) and exciting a team as will grace the blustery Balboa Diamonds. The *P.S. and The Ambush will fight it out for last place.

DIVISION B

Again, I am going out on a limb and choose someone other than what is generally thought to be the best team in the Division. I think that Jay Platt's Oil Can Harry's Latin-American flavored team will barely edge out Skip Anderson's Badlands

team - not necessarily because they are the best team, but because "Harry's" have the much easier schedule and Skip, again one of the most able players and the most competent managers, will have his problems with the former Golden Boy of the Pirates - Mr. DeFord. Another surprise team, I predict, will be South of Market, whose manager, Angelo, is worth the price of admission - they are going to win their share of games - The Bodyworks, the remaining team, is a mystery and will undoubtedly bring up the rear - which in some cases might not be too bad.

DIVISION C

Again, a close one. But, I have to go with my favorite enemies - Sutter's Mill - not only do they have Wes Jackson, a Superstar bar none, they have corralled a most formidable pitching staff. Bubba, one of the best, has been joined by two ex-Pirates, Joe Ross and Maureen, both of whom have excelled in play-off competition - Peter Puffer has another winner. The Hut and The Mint will battle it out for second and third with supervisory candidate, Bob Hagen's Fun Time Travels playing like he politics, or is it politicking like he plays - in either case, he will not be a winner.

DIVISION D

The strongest Division

in the League and the most difficult for me to pick with an open mind. Toad Hall, led again by Peter Jerenko and Bob Verrick and joined by still another ex-Pirate, Durwood, will be tough, as usual, and just might take it all; however, in complete honesty, I feel the Pendulum Pirates will capture their Division and repeat as CSL champions. If they don't, it will be only because their manager blew it (yours truly). They have the best raw material in the League. In particular, their hitting, even having lost the

great DeFord and all-stars Jim Gefre and Bill Perry, can be awesome. Lafayette, Joe Ritchie, the Elliott Brothers, Manny, Duke, Toughy and the rest will be awfully tough to pitch to. Their rebuilt pitching staff will be the pivotal point and will, I believe, stand the test. Two other strong teams - Silver Sage and The Hombre will be standing by, either good enough to step in if the Toad Hallers or Pirates falter.

The 1977 season will be a great one no matter which team wins. To all good luck. And to you in the community, come out to Balboa and root for your favorites, or against your favorite "hate-image" (as that scoundrel, Sarah, would say).

More sports photos p. 18
Bob's Bazaar...



Less than vindictive, Everett displays his taste for oranges, but his distaste for Anita Bryant and her Florida Orange.

photo by Henri Leleu & Assoc.

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Points South, East & North

by Gene

MODESTO

The Pastime Club, on the opposite end of 9th St. from the Brave Bull, was burned to the ground a week and a half ago in what was definitely arson, according to the Stanislaus County Fire Marshals. The same evening, the trash bin behind the Brave Bull was set on fire, as well as a small trash fire set at the Mustang Club. Some speculation has it that these fires were inspired by the current wave of Anita Bryant fans, but that has not been substantiated; and as of April 12, other reasons for the arson are being looked into. Full details should be available by next issue.

Friday, April 15, the Mustang Club will host a birthday party for Shirley, with a show by Everett. It starts at 10 PM and there will be a \$1 donation requested at the door which will go towards the new patio (set to open the 24th). I can't wait to see it.

April 12th Elaine Bar-ringer and Co. presented

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their "Minstrel Camps" to standing room only crowds at the Mustang Club. Congrats, Elaine!

The Brave Bull will host a spaghetti feed at 4 PM on Sunday the 17th, and they have a new batch of T-shirts for your body.

Hope to see you all at the Merced Coronation on Saturday, April 16, at the Merced Fairgrounds Pavilion, which (in this case) is a fancy word for gymnasi-um.

My congratulations to Lady Linda and the entire staff of the Modesto Hoot-N-Howl, their new publication. A job well done!

SAN JOSE

Remember The Galley from long ago on Alma in San Jose? Well, if you have not been there lately, you might not recognize the place. A beautiful job of redecorating has been done, and it is now called Aunt Helen's Galley - same address, 163 W. Alma. Serving beer and wine and lunches Monday thru Friday, this has got to be one of the cleanest bars in town; you could "eat off the floor." Stop in and try 'em.

Look for the opening of another new bar in the San Jose area by none other than George Zell.

Understand that the Sundown's Anniversary show was a smash.

Tinker's Damn will host a show called "A Salute to All the Miss Tinker's Damns of the Past Six Years." Goldie Montana and Leilani Bishop will be your hosts on Sunday, April 17, beginning at 9:15 pm. Door admission is \$2 which includes one complimentary drink.

Andy's 641 Club will host a Taurus Party on April 24. They now have their new indoor patio open. While you're in that area, stop in at the Man-hole and relax with a nice wine cooler.

On Monday, April 18, the Desperados will present a spaghetti feed. A donation will be requested at the door to be sent to help the Dade County (Florida) Coalition in their battle against Anita Bryant and Co. Please support this activity. On Sunday the 24th, the Desperados will host the "Polynesian Review" beginning at 8 PM. This promises to be a great show.

On Wednesday, April 27, the Lambda Ass'n General Meeting will be held at Jonah's Wail, in the basement, starting at 7:30 pm. . . . Thursday, April 28, Park Street Station will have a Cash Dance Contest. . . . May 15 The Garden in Palo Alto will host its first annual "Gayissance Fair" from 10 AM till

7 PM. This will be a swap meet, flea market and fair. For information on booth space, call 328-9895.

The Diamond Peacock Follies will be presented at Phyl's Harbor, 529 Seabright, in Santa Cruz on April 23 - shows at 8 PM and 10 PM.

The Sexually Liberated Bar- Bell Comes To Town

Solarius, the city's first physical fitness center for men and women to feature the revolutionary Nautilus equipment, has opened for business at 1335 Sutter.

The use of the Nautilus machinery, which co-owner Helen Sneed has nicknamed 'The Sexually Liberated Barbell,' was pioneered by pro football teams and cuts the equivalent of three hours of work with barbells down to just 25 minutes.

Sneed and co-owner Steve Kalafut claim that the equipment is beneficial to women, as well as men, who are looking for overall tone and flexibility - and not necessarily muscular physiques.

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Solarius also provides more traditional weight-training equipment, and free-style exercise, dance and body work classes in a sunny second-floor studio. Also planned are a stained-glass juice bar, sundeck, whirlpools and sauna.

Workshop For Young Gays At Fort Help

Gay youth and adults interested in the struggles of high school age Gays are invited to a free Community Forum on Saturday, April 16, at Fort Help, 169 11th St., San Francisco, 10:30 am to 4:00 pm. Bring your own lunch. For information, call Tom Fry, Director of Our House Making a Difference with Youth, 626-5851.

SOCIAL, RECREATION-AL NEEDS: Bob Burns, Jr., Lowell High Gay Alliance of Youth; Paul Gibson, SF Gay Rap.

SURVIVAL NEEDS: E.F. Mitchell, Survival House Director; Leslie McKeel, Probation Dept.

FAMILY & PARENTS: Scott Worth and Sarah Pennington, Operation Concern Clinic

SCHOOLS & FAMILY LIFE ED: Phyllis Lyon, Human Rights Commissioner; Tom Ammiano, Gay Teachers Caucus.

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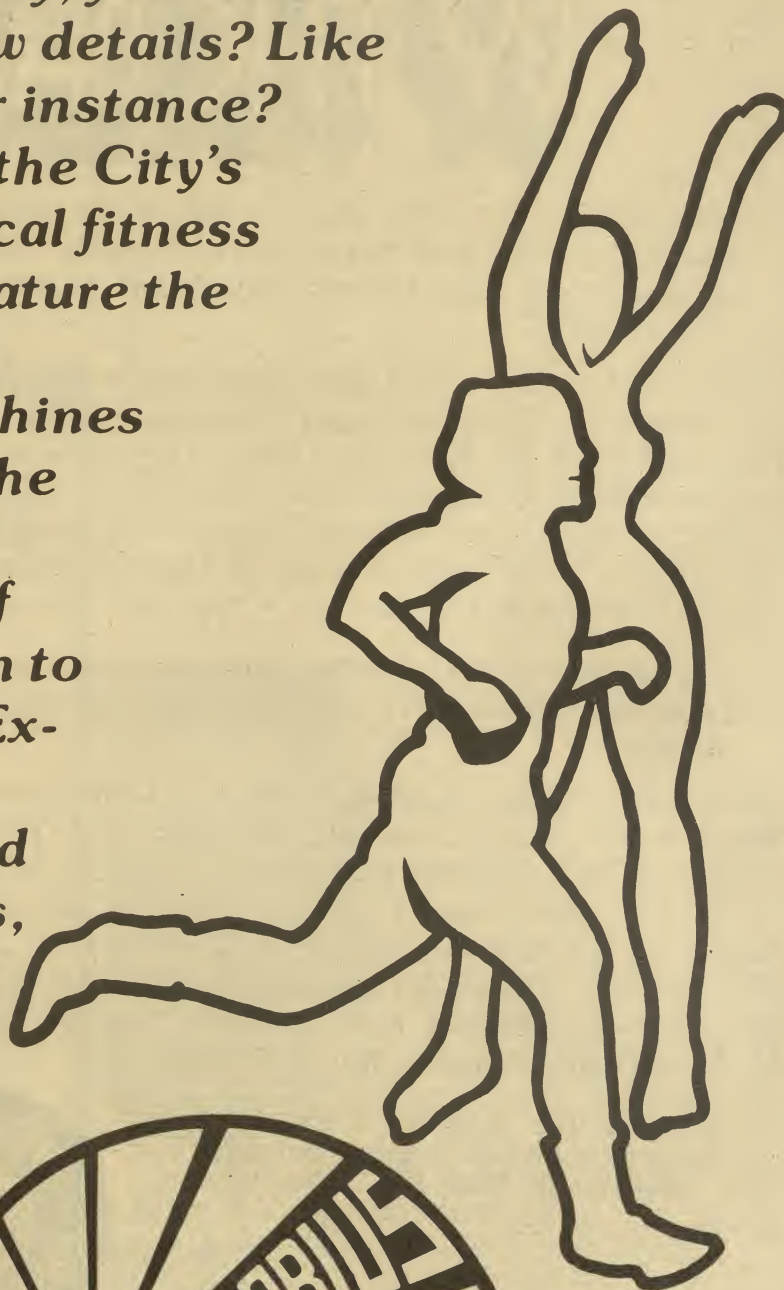
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